

December 1, 1970

Thank you for your letter of November 23rd.

Glycogen storage disease has in fact been the subject of several studies during the last 20 years. While we can say that we have a somewhat clearer understanding of the various forms this disease can take,, and of the ways in which a genetic deficiency can result in the disease, the fundamental obstacles to dealing adequately with it are more than we know how to deal with at the present time. The most promising lead at present would merely make it possible to diagnose the disease in utero and allow a therapeutic abortion. When perfected, this technique would at least permit a couple to try more confidently to have a normal child, a consideration which for many would outweigh the scruples they might have about relying upon abortion. The really satisfactory solution to the problem is undoubtedly within our reach if we can sustain the momentum of some very exciting current research developments but it would be cruel to suggest that we are there today.

I suspect you will already have been in touch with competent professional advice but if you wish to discuss the possibilities of current research in this field in more detail I suggest that you first make contact with Dr. Ray C. Anderson at the Department of Pediatrics at the University hospital in Minneapolis.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr